THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of cargo handling capacity of the major ports where loading and unloading of export and import cargos are generally carried out as on 31.3.2004 is as under:—

Sl. No.	Commodity	Total (In Million Tonnes)
1.	P.O.L.	154.85
2.	Iron Ore	51.00
3.	Coal (thermal)	44.20
4.	Fertiliser	4.1
5.	Gen. Break Bulk Cargo	85.80
6.	Container	49.55
	(In lakhs TEUs)	(41.31)
	TOTAL	389.50

(b) to (e) Capacity enhancement of infrastructure including roads is an ongoing process depending on the requirements. So far as the connectivity of the major ports to the roads are concerned, the projects are generally executed by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) except in some cases where small segment of road falling in the port area are developed by the ports on their own. The capacity and condition of the road are of vital importance for movement of cargo from and to the ports. The time taken by the containers for such movement would, amongst other factors, depend on the initial and terminal points of the destination. The details of projects undertaken by NHAI for improving capacity is consolidated in the ANNEXURE. [See Appendix 204 Annexure No.4]

Language used on milestones on roads

†429. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India has suddenly started inscribing details of places in Hindi on milestones in the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the two language policy of using only Tamil and English had been followed in inscription of details on milestones on National Highways for decades in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the reasons for deviating from the decades old practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The three language formula is being followed throughout the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Decongesting of traffic in Chennai

430. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways Authority of India had decided to begin work on decongesting traffic at metropolitan cities including Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government had awarded contract to commence the work on the above work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The following improvement/widening works on National Highway in metropolitan cities are being undertaken for this purpose.